

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6594

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS QUITO 5676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR EC

SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS COMMENT ON ECUADOREAN CIVIL AVIATION
POLICY

1. LATEST MAJOR CRITICISM OF ECUADOREAN CIVIL AVIATION POLICY'S
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TOURISM AND TOURISM-RELATED INDUSTRIES
APPEARED IN EDITORIAL IN QUITO DAILY EL COMERCIO AUGUST 1.
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "TOURISM AND AVIATION" STRESSED FOLLOWING
POINTS: A) AS A RESULT OF THE "INSECURITY AND SHORTAGE
OF FLIGHTS" ECUADOR IS BEING ELIMINATED FROM SOUTH AMERICAN
TOURS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ORIGINATING IN THE UNITED STATES.
B) WHILE THE GOE HAS CLEAR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH RULES OF THE
GAME WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATING WITH FOREIGN INTERNATIONAL
AIRLINES, AND WHILE IT WOULD BE "ABSURD FOR THE GOE AND
OTHER AUTHORITIES TO CONDESCEND UNACCEPTABLY TO DEMANDS
OF THE GIANT TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES WITH REGARD TO
ITINERARIES AND FREQUENCIES" IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT A
"VERY REALISTIC" STANDPOINT SO AS NOT TO BRING ABOUT
SELF-DEFEATING EFFECTS. C) THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING
EQUALITY WITH THE LARGER INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS IS "UN-
THINKABLE". D) WHILE THE NATIONAL CARRIER MUST ASSERT
ITS RIGHTS IN ROUTES WHICH IT CAN SERVE EFFICIENTLY, IN
THOSE ROUTES WHERE COVERAGE WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT
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IMPOSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO ALLOW FOREIGN CARRIERS

TO OPERATE.

2. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY ASSERTING THAT "IF A STUBBORN,
PSEUDO-NATIONALISTIC ATTITUDE PERSISTS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN
AND, IN FACT, IS HAPPENING ACCORDING TO INFORMATION
AVAILABLE, IS A DECREASE IN THE INFLOW OF TOURISTS, NOT
TO MENTION THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS IN THE BUSINESS FIELD".
BREWSTER

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